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15. — *Arctic Researches and Life among the Esquimaux ; being the Narrative of an Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin, in the Years 1860, 1861, and 1862.* By CHARLES FRANCIS HALL. With Maps and one hundred Illustrations. New York : Harper and Brothers. 1865. 8vo. pp. 595.

THIS is a very interesting book. It is the narrative of a remarkable expedition, and it holds a distinct and original place among the records of Arctic explorations. Its interest consists not in the importance of discoveries made by its author, or in its containing any great additions to the stock of geographical information respecting the Arctic regions, but is derived from the character, motives, and personal experience of Mr. Hall, and his accounts of the people with whom he dwelt.

For several years Mr. Hall had been deeply moved by the mystery hanging over the fate of Sir John Franklin and his companions. He had lamented the fruitless results of the search for them. He felt that it was a generous and humane work to seek for these missing men until a certain knowledge of their fate was acquired. Some of them might yet be living. Large ships and small ships in magnificent expeditions had been sent out to seek the lost. America had joined her efforts with those of England to recover their traces. But all had been in vain. Might not an individual, proceeding on a different plan from any heretofore followed, yet succeed. "It seemed to me," he says, "as if I had been *called*, if I may so speak, to try and do the work." "Accordingly, after mature consideration, I determined to make the effort. But how? what were my means? what the facilities for reaching the coveted goal of my ambition? What was I to do? I could not resist the desire upon me. I determined, therefore, to try; and, first of all, get what means were in my power, then find a way. Courage and resolution were all that I needed; and though some persons might not concur in the wisdom and prudence of my effort, still, as my mind was upon it, try it I would, and try it I did." This is the genuine spirit of great deeds. Here was a landsman, living in Cincinnati, in the heart of the continent, bound to home by strong ties, but fired with such zeal as to be eager to undertake what to the prudent of the world might well seem a desperate enterprise. But Mr. Hall was no modern Don Quixote. He was a crusader of the ages of faith, bound for his Holy Land. "I need not enter," he says in his Introduction, "upon all the many difficulties I encountered. These fall to the lot of every man who essays to try his hand at something new, and especially so if he starts on a path trodden without success before him. But difficulties sharpen the

wit and strengthen the mind. . . . How I surmounted those difficulties and started upon my voyage cannot be told at any length here."

Zeal is contagious. Mr. Hall found friends willing to aid him in securing the modest outfit he required. "My object," he told them, "is to acquire personal knowledge of the language and life of the Esquimaux, with a view thereafter . . . to endeavor, by personal investigation, to determine more satisfactorily the fate of the 105 companions of Sir John Franklin, now known to have been living on the 25th day of April, 1848. . . . The voyage is one I am about to make for the cause of humanity and science, — for geographical discovery, and *with the sole view of accomplishing good to mankind.*"

On the 29th of May, 1860, Mr. Hall set sail from New London, Connecticut, on board the whaling barque *George Henry*. For his own use he had obtained the little schooner, the *Rescue*, of celebrity gained in a previous Arctic expedition; and he had had built a boat specially adapted to the purposes for which he required it. These, with a small stock of proper clothing, provisions, some needed arms, instruments, and articles for presents, were his whole outfit. We do not propose to condense the narrative of his experiences and adventures during the two years and more of his residence in the Arctic regions. The loss of the *Rescue* and of his expedition boat in a storm, in September, 1860, was a calamity of the most serious nature in limiting the results which he had hoped to accomplish. The main object of his voyage was not gained; he learned nothing of the fate of Sir John Franklin's men; but though thus disappointed, he acquired an invaluable knowledge of the habits and thoughts and life of the natives of those Northern regions; he won their sympathy and confidence, he learned their language, and fitted himself to undertake future explorations. No hardship or trial was sufficient to wear out his energy or blunt his zeal. His faith, his hope, his charity, were never wearied. Every fresh test of his courage and endurance was borne with unflinching spirit and resolve.

The literary execution of Mr. Hall's book is of a character that corresponds well to the nature of his enterprise. The author's style is simple and manly, and his descriptions of natural objects and of the persons with whom he was brought in intercourse show a quick eye, a ready intelligence, and a strong power of sympathy. A vein of natural piety runs through the narrative, reminding the reader of a religious spirit often shown in the accounts of their voyages by the best earlier explorers. There are passages in the volume which, in picturesqueness, sincerity, and simplicity, both of description and of feeling, are worthy of Robinson Crusoe. The book wins for the author the cordial respect and sympathy of the reader. Mr. Hall is a man

who has done honor to his country, and of whom his countrymen may well be proud. We join our heartiest wishes to those of his other friends for his safe and successful return from the expedition on which, undeterred by the failure of his first attempt, he set forth last year.

A notice of the book would be incomplete without commendation of the great excellence of the wood-cuts with which it is illustrated. In spirit and execution they are alike admirable; and no higher praise can be given them than that which most of them deserve, of being true illustrations of the narrative.

16. — *Zulu Land, or Life among the Zulu-Kafirs of Natal and Zulu Land.* By Rev. LEWIS GROUT. Philadelphia. 12mo. pp. 351.

PORT NATAL, on the southeastern coast of Africa, was discovered by the celebrated navigator, Vasco de Gama, five years after the first voyage of Columbus to this country. He named the region *Tierra de Natal*, or Land of the Nativity, from the circumstance that he first came upon it on the 25th of December. Around the bay and port of Natal dwell the Zulu-Kafirs, a branch of the great African race which is known sometimes as the Zingian. In late years the land of the Zulus has been brought before the public with some prominence as the see of an eccentric Bishop of the Church of England. Dr. Colenso and Mr. Grout were laborers in the same field, though their notions were so different as to bring on a local controversy of some importance on polygamy, the precursor of the greater discussion which is still exciting the minds of English theologians.

A few of our countrymen have for thirty years been accustomed to watch the progress of events in that remote region of the earth, because an enterprising band of Americans has been there, engaged in promoting the intellectual and moral culture of the natives, and in endeavoring to diffuse among them the principles of Christianity. They have reduced the language to writing; and one of their number, the author of this volume, has prepared a grammar of the Zulu tongue, which is not only a great service to the native people and to the European emigrants, but is an interesting and valuable contribution to general philological science.

But we apprehend that the public generally has no adequate notion of the remarkable infusion of European ideas and institutions which is steadily in progress on the southeastern coast of Africa. Americans have been so much absorbed with the African question at home, that they have paid but little attention to the noteworthy encroachments which the British are making on the continent which has so long been